

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for providing a user interface for controlling devices that are currently connected to a network, the method comprising the steps of:

for at least one of said devices:

(a) obtaining information from one or more of the devices currently connected to the network, wherein each device includes device information and user control interface description for user interaction with that device; ~~and~~

(b) generating a top page user interface description based at least on the obtained device information, the top page user interface description including a reference associated with the device information and user control interface description in each of said devices currently connected to the network, such that each reference in the top page user interface description includes at least one electronic link providing direct access from the top page user interface description to said device information and user control interface description contained in said devices currently connected to the network;

~~wherein the device information in each device includes a user control interface description for user interaction with that device,~~

(c) ~~such that~~ when a link in the top page user interface description is user activated, using the activated link to access the control interface description

contained in the corresponding device ~~is accessed using the activated link to obtain device information and~~ to generate a device user interface for user interaction with that corresponding device.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the link comprises a pointer from the top page user interface description to at least the information in a corresponding device.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step (b) further includes the steps of generating the top page user interface description such that the user interface description further includes device data corresponding to each device based on the information obtained from each device.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step (b) of generating the top page user interface description further includes the steps of associating a hyper-text link with the device information in each of said devices currently connected to the network, such that each hyper-text link provides access from the top page user interface description to the device information in a corresponding device.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said information in each device comprises an HTML page for user interaction with and/or control of that device.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the device information in each device includes device identification information for that device.

7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step (b) further includes the steps of generating the top page user interface description such that each link in the top page user interface description provides direct access to at least the user control interface description in each corresponding device.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the step (b) further includes the steps of generating the top page user interface description such that the top page user interface description further includes device data corresponding to each device based on the information obtained from each device, the device data providing an electronic link to the user control interface description in each device, such that when the link in the top page is user activated ~~it provides access to~~ the activated link is used to retrieve control interface description contained in the corresponding device to generate and display a device user interface based on the retrieved control interface description, for user interaction with that corresponding device.

10. (currently amended) A network system for performing a service, comprising:

a physical layer, wherein the physical layer provides a communication medium that can be used by devices to communicate with each other;

one or more devices connected to the physical layer, each device storing information including device information;

an agent in at least one device for:

(a) obtaining information from one or more of the devices currently connected to the network, wherein each device includes device information for user interaction with that device, the device information contained in each device further including a user control interface description for user interaction with that device; and

(b) generating a top page user interface description based at least on the obtained information, the top page user interface description including a reference associated with the device information in each of said devices currently connected to the network, such that the reference includes at least one electronic link providing direct access from the top page user interface description to said device information contained in said devices currently connected to the network, ~~wherein the device information in each device includes a user control interface description for user interaction with that device;~~

(c) such that when a link in the top page user interface description is user activated, using the activated link to access the control interface description contained in the corresponding device ~~is accessed using the activated link~~ to then

generate a device user interface for user interaction with that corresponding device.

11. (previously presented) The network system of claim 10 wherein the agent generates the top page user interface description such that the link comprises a pointer from the top page user interface description to at least the information in each corresponding device.

12. (previously presented) The network system of claim 10, wherein the agent generates the top page user interface description such that the top page user interface description further includes device data corresponding to each device based on the information obtained from each device.

13. (previously presented) The network system of claim 10, wherein the agent further associates a hyper-text link in the top page user interface description with the device information in each of said devices currently connected to the network, such that each hyper-text link provides access from the top page user interface description to the device information in a corresponding device.

14. (previously presented) The network system of claim 10, wherein said information in each device comprises an HTML page for user interaction with and/or control of that device.

15. (previously presented) The network system of claim 10, wherein the device information in each device includes device identification information for that device.

16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) The network system of claim 10, wherein the agent generates the top page user interface description such that each link in the user interface description provides direct access to at least the user control interface description in each corresponding device.

18. (currently amended) The network system of claim 10, wherein the agent generates the top page user interface description such that the top page user interface description further includes device data corresponding to each device based on the information obtained from each device, the device data providing a link to the user control interface description in each device, such that when the link is user activated ~~it provides access to~~ the activated link is used to download control interface description contained in the corresponding device to generate and display a device user interface based on the retrieved control interface description, for user interaction with that corresponding device.

19. (previously presented) The network system of claim 10 further comprising means for generating at least one top page user interface by: using each link in the top page user

interface description to access the device information in each corresponding device, and generating the top page user interface including device data corresponding to each device using the accessed information in each device.

20. (currently amended) A network system for performing a service, comprising:
a physical layer, wherein the physical layer provides a communication medium
than can be used by devices to communicate with each other;

multiple devices connected to the physical layer, one or more of said multiple
devices storing information including device information for user interaction with that device,
and one or more of said multiple devices each including an agent for:

(a) obtaining information from one or more of the devices currently
connected to the network, said information including device information, the
device information contained in each device further including a user control
interface description for user interaction with that device; and

(b) generating a top page user interface description based at least on
the obtained information, the top page user interface description including a
reference associated with the device information of each of said devices currently
connected to the network, such that the reference includes at least one electronic
link providing direct access from the top page user interface description to said
device information contained in said devices currently connected to the network;

~~wherein the device information in each device includes a user control~~

~~interface description for user interaction with that device, such that~~

(c) when a link in the top page user interface description is user activated, the activated link is used to access the control interface description contained in the corresponding device ~~is accessed via the activated link~~ to then generate a device user interface for user interaction with that corresponding device.

21. (previously presented) The network system of claim 20, wherein each agent generates a top page user interface description such that the link in the top page user interface description comprises a pointer from the top page user interface description to at least the information in a corresponding device.

22. (previously presented) The network system of claim 20, wherein each agent generates a top page user interface description such that the top page user interface description further includes device data corresponding to each device based on the information obtained from each device.

23. (previously presented) The network system of claim 20, wherein each agent further associates a hyper-text link in a top page user interface description with the device information in each of said devices currently connected to the network, such that each hyper-text link provides access from the top page user interface description to the device information in a

corresponding device.

24. (previously presented) The network system of claim 20, wherein said information in each device comprises an HTML page for user interaction with and/or control of that device.

25. (previously presented) The network system of claim 20, wherein the device information in each device includes device identification information for that device.

26. (canceled)

27. (previously presented) The network system of claim 20, wherein each agent generates the top page user interface description such that each link in the top page user interface description provides direct access to at least the user control interface description in each corresponding device.

28. (currently amended) The network system of claim 20, wherein each agent generates the top page user interface description such that the top page user interface description further includes device data corresponding to each device based on the information obtained from each device, the device data providing a link to the user control interface description in each device, such that when the link is user activated ~~it provides access to~~ the activated link is used to download control interface description contained in the corresponding device to generate

SAM1.PAU.64

and display a device user interface based on the retrieved control interface description, for user interaction with that corresponding device.